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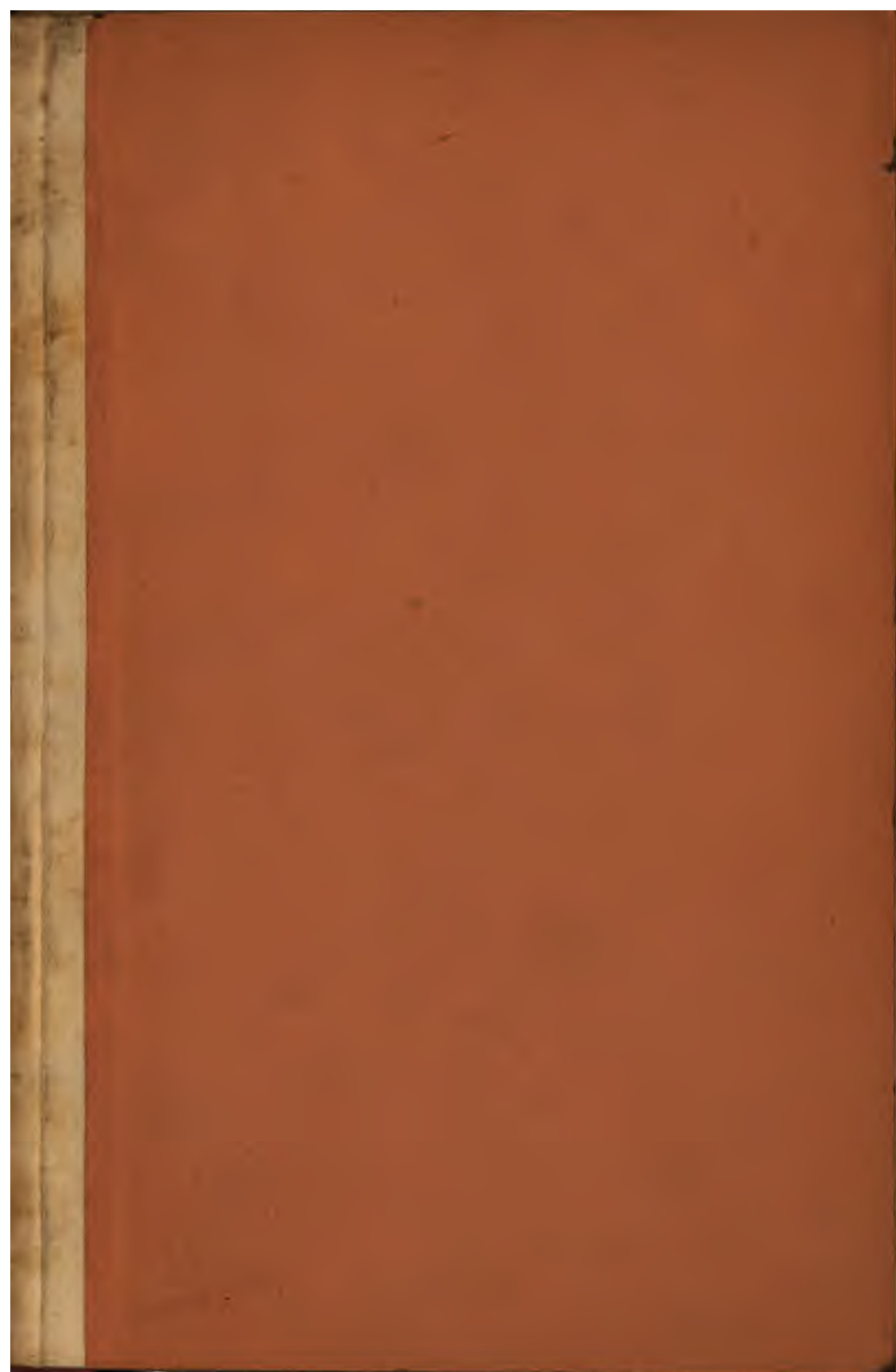
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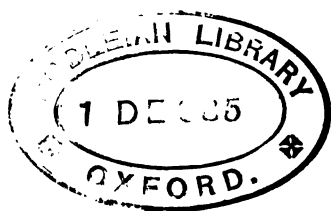
NOTES
ON THE
LIGURIANS, AQUITANIANS
AND BELGIANS

By HYDE CLARKE, F.R.Hist.Soc.

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NOTES ON THE LIGURIANS, AQUITANIANS, AND BELGIANS.

By HYDE CLARKE, F.R. Hist. Soc.

I. THE question of who were the Ligurians has occupied many, and remained obscure. Many and many years ago it occupied me, and about the year 1869 it led me to engage in a close investigation of a possible Dravidian connexion. This brought me some remarkable results, but for reasons not then known to me they led to no decision. The names of rivers in Liguria and Northern Italy responded to the Tamil names for river, water, &c., but the true cause was that such names are not Dravidian in their origin, and that the river names were not given by the Ligurians, but according to a uniform law, recognisable from Hispania or Britannia to further India, and it may be said to America.

As early as Hesiod, and so later Herodotus, we find the writer treating the Ligyes (*Λίγυες*) as the most considerable nation after the Skuthians and Æthiopians. What he means by this it is not easy to make out, for the Ligurians do not appear to have made any figure in history. Æschylus and Herodotus say that Hercules fought them near Massilia (Marseilles), but this again gives us no real information.

Hercules, Herakles, Melicertes, Melkarth, and Samson may be found anywhere, for they correspond to words for lion in the prehistoric languages, as may be sufficiently seen from the emblems of lions on coins of such names, registered in my paper on the 'Mediterranean Populations' in the last volume of the Royal Historical Society. The words appear in reality to refer to the Tarkon, Tarquin, or Great King, whose emblems were the bull and lion. Such we find in all the countries of the old world. The old languages were outgrown by the invading Semitic or Aryan, and in the course of time stray

words were converted into myths. As everywhere there was a lion king, so everywhere there was a Hercules, and the return of the Herakleids appears to represent the restoration of the old race of the kings of the lion and the bull. In the course of time a Hercules with a lion's skin, and slaying a lion and a bull, became a general legend from the local legends being fused together.

In reference to this statement of Hercules fighting the Ligurians, it is not unworthy of note that Massilia was one of those cities which had on its coins a lion and a bull, and was from its situation even in early times a probable great centre. Hekataëus speaks of Massilia as a city of Liguria, but it was certainly Iberian.

Skulax is related to have said that the countries between the Pyrenees and the Rhone were peopled by mixed Iberians and Ligurians, and this appears to be nearer the mark than most other statements.

After examining Mommsen on the earliest inhabitants of Italy, Micali already quoted, Forbiger for the geographical citations, Fabretti in the *Corpus Inscriptionum*, and other modern authorities and compilers, we get no effective information.

Giuseppe Micali has perhaps done the most. He has devoted Chapter I. of his second volume to the Ligurians, but he does not solve the difficulties. He says they were not Celts, and that they were mixed up with the Iberians, but were not Iberians.

Ligurians were alleged to exist elsewhere than in Northern Italy or on the Gallic borders. A colony of Liguës in Samnium is spoken of (Livy, 40 ; Pliny, iii. 11, 16).¹ In Corsica they are referred to by Micali, *Storia degli Antichi Popoli Italiani*, vol. ii. p. 51. He cites Seneca, *Ad Helv.* 8, and Sallust, *Frag. Hist.* ii. p. 259 ed. Bip., as affirming this statement.

Micali, vol. ii. p. 51, says, 'In tempi sconosciuti vi navigarono Iberi e Liguri.'

¹ These quotations have not been lately verified by me.

With regard to the name of Ligyes, or Ligures, it is natural to think of others of the same form, as Lukla (Lycia), Lukaonia, Ki-Likla (Celècia), Lakonia, Lukania, in Southern Italy, the Le-Leges, and the present Lesghians. The coincidence is a true one, and the nature of it will appear hereafter. It is possible that ria, in Liguria, Etruria, is equivalent to nia, signifying country in the other cases.

In reference to Liguria, it has been already stated that the river names are not local, but general, and cannot be identified with those of any local race. Of the town names the same is to be said. Such names as Genua, Segesta, Asta, Iria, on the evidence of coins, are under the same conditions as those of other cities.

The stray words in Herodotus, v. 9, and Pliny, iii. 16, give no help for classification, even if in our present state of knowledge we were justified in conceiving a Ligurian nation speaking a Ligurian language.

Baffled in so many points, and deprived of customary resources, it occurred to me that as so many tribal names are preserved in Liguria, it might be possible to investigate these. The names of tribes are preserved under great difficulties, as stated by me in my *Prehistoric Comparative Philology and Mythology*, and such names have been observed in many cases to signify Man in the local language of the population.

Accordingly, this test was applied, and with a decided result, for the following:—

Ligyes, Ligures, a well-known form.

Apuani.

Ambrones.

Ingauni.

Genuates.

Briniates.

Statielliates.

Intemelii.

Vediantii.

Vagienni.

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There are others probable, but not so clear. There is, however, enough to give us the elements of determination. They show that Liguria was occupied by tribes speaking languages allied to those of the Iberians.

We must now refer to the great lesson established by my essay on the Mediterranean nations. There it was found that under one general system of colonisation or conquest all the countries of the ancient empire received names for their rivers, mountains, islands, and towns. The towns, however small, were settled by members of several tribes, the reason of which was assigned by me as due to the practice of exogamy, or of not intermarrying in a clan, but choosing a wife outside the clan.

While we find many small islands closely occupied with towns, and can recognise the same in many parts of the mainland, we may in the case of Liguria contemplate a state of affairs which must have prevailed in the uncertain districts of the other regions. Tribes or clans held the country, but it is quite possible that they included sub-clans.

The organisation of a tribe, or aggregation of tribes, is very different from that of a town, an aggregation of towns, or a small kingdom, and its existence in Liguria explains the historical conditions of that region. We do not find a great monarchy constituted there, but we observe the natural traits of populations addicted to war and rapine.

That they were, as alleged, connected with the Iberians we are assured by the evidence here given, but we must not mistake the position. The Iberians were not, as we have been led to conceive, a nation of one language, but an aggregation of clans speaking various languages and dialects, as the coins show. Some of the clans in Liguria may have been connected with other clans distributed in the cities. Except in such cases there was no close relationship, and the separate clans would not even understand the language of the ruling tribe.

The Ligurians would always be in relation with the Tarquin, or Tarkon, of Etruria and the other kings, some-

times in alliance, sometimes employed as military retainers, as they undoubtedly were by the Carthaginians (Herod. vi. 165) and by the Greek tyrants of Sicily (Smith and Dietz, word 'Liguria'). The colonies in Samnium may have been so constituted.

It is also credible that the Ligurians were engaged in the service of the great seafaring powers of the Western Mediterranean—the Iberians, Etruscans, and others. In that early time of history, seamanship, like the arts, had been largely developed, and there is every appearance that the sea conflict described by Plato in his *Timæus* really represents the defeat of the Great King of the Western World, and the severance of that intercourse which we now know was so close between the Old World and America. Atlantis has little of fable in it, but the name is not that of a region, but of its great king.¹

To the Aryans the real relations of the population would be little known. Ligurians or Iberians were spoken of as if they were comparable with states elsewhere. It may have been the fame of Ligurian soldiers which induced Herodotus to attach so much importance to them. What was Iberian and what was not would not be discerned by a stranger. In the case of the Iberians, they held larger kingdoms, they had arts, learning, and written languages, but at the bottom they consisted of these various clans. Thus, as has been pointed out by me, their power, sufficient to control the aboriginal barbarians, gave way before the less numerous, but more compact and uniform Semites and barbarians. A great revolution was accomplished by small means, and the mighty empires of the olden world were toppled to their fall.

II. The question of who were the Aquitani is also a vexed one. It will, however, occupy us less after the discussion of the Ligurians, for the same principles and the same facts are applicable in the instance of the Aquitani.

The term of Aquitani we chiefly understand in the sense of Cæsar, as expressing the southern portions of Gaul, which

¹ Atlantis, or Atala-ntis, works into the chain with Tantalus, Kan-daulis or Kân-dares, Tar-kon, &c.

had not been reduced by the Celts, as was the midland, though the Celts had penetrated among the Aquitanians and into Hispania. Strabo treats the Aquitanians as being more like the Iberians than the Gauls, which was the fact.

We are apt to consider that the whole of Aquitania must have been what we now regard as a Basque region. It must, however, have been under the same conditions as the other regions, for this is shown by the coins. Consequently, in the period antecedent to Cæsar, if not contemporary with him, there can have been no uniformity of language, but the contrary. The uniformity of Basque is as much an intrusion on this condition as is the rival intrusion of the French language.

The names of the rivers are not local, and the town names cannot be distinguished from those of Hispania or of the remaining regions. They may be disturbed by local spellings and Roman transliteration, but they include such names as Segora, Vosunna, Carasa, Calagurris, Segosa, Elusa.

From the coins we obtain the definite testimony of the Iberian character with its distinctions.

The tribal names answer to the linguistic test, and of the Cubi we have coins showing Iberian affinity.

While regarding the Aquitani as Iberians in a general sense, they must not be considered as being altogether the same as those of Spain. From these they were separated by the Celtic invasions, and they were themselves influenced by Celtic invasions and wars and new alliances made with the Celts.

Notwithstanding the Celts had possessed themselves of the greater part of Gaul, we find in the town names and the coins evidence of the original Iberian occupation. When the Gauls come to be considered in this respect, and particularly with regard to their mythology, where we may trace Iberian survivals, we shall arrive at many new conclusions. The cities of Gaul probably included many inhabitants of Iberian descent, and at the time of Cæsar's wars, and again in the later Germanic invasion of Gaul, we may have to account for this

Iberian element in modification of what we have attributed solely to Celtic influences.

From all the facts that come before us we see that ancient Europe, like America or Africa, was covered with a multitude of languages and dialects. Dr. Carl Abel, in his *Linguistic Essays* (Trübner), points to the distinctions that exist between the great languages, that each is national, and that the words do not convey the same ideas to those of other nationalities. Thus there is not perfect intercommunication of culture, say, between German and French.

When, however, we come to apply this valuable observation to an earlier epoch of history, we see that the intercommunication of idea between tribe and tribe, and clan and clan, was restricted, and that the growth of culture in a language was impeded. As pointed out by me, the Semitic and Aryan invasions greatly promoted a moral revolution, which might have been effected by other means, as we see in the case of the Chinese, the Bantu, and the Turkish. Each of these new languages extirpated the numerous aboriginal dialects, and supplied one language of intercommunication, and one stock for the aggregation and development of culture. The dialects of the Ligurians, the Aquitani, and the Belgæ could not have produced languages like the Greek and the Latin. It is the cultural power attending the English and other great modern languages which, as much as anything else, tends to the destruction of the languages in contact, as, for instance, Irish, Welsh, Cornish, and Manx, although such languages are in themselves intrinsically as good as the conqueror.

III. It is not necessary in this paper to engage in the contest whether the Belgæ in the time of Cæsar were Celtic or Germanic, and the wider considerations will be entered upon in the other paper in this volume, which will deal with the Belgians in Britain.

The present essay simply embraces the investigation of what nature were the populations included by Cæsar in his third division of Gaul, other than those which were distinctly intrusive, as Celtic or Germanic.

This fact, too, is limited by the first dissertation on the Ligurians.

The few coins of the district available for our purpose have been examined by me, and shown to belong to the general class of Iberian.

On applying the further test of tribal determination we obtain equivalent results.

The general name of Belgian, like that of Ligurian, is recognisable. It is Man as in other cases.

We may enumerate :—

Belgæ.

Batavi.

Eburones.

Abudes.

Verani.

The conclusions to be drawn from facts conforming to general historical data are of considerable interest.

The Belgians in no general respect differed from the inhabitants of præ-Celtic Gaul. The distinction drawn by Cæsar is consequent on the occupation of midland Gaul by the Aryan invaders, thus sundering the northern Iberians or Belgians from the southern Iberians or Aquitanians, as also from the Ligurians.

We find, also, that the district was settled with Iberian cities, and that this occupation extended to these shores of the North Sea, if not further, and even to the amber deposits.

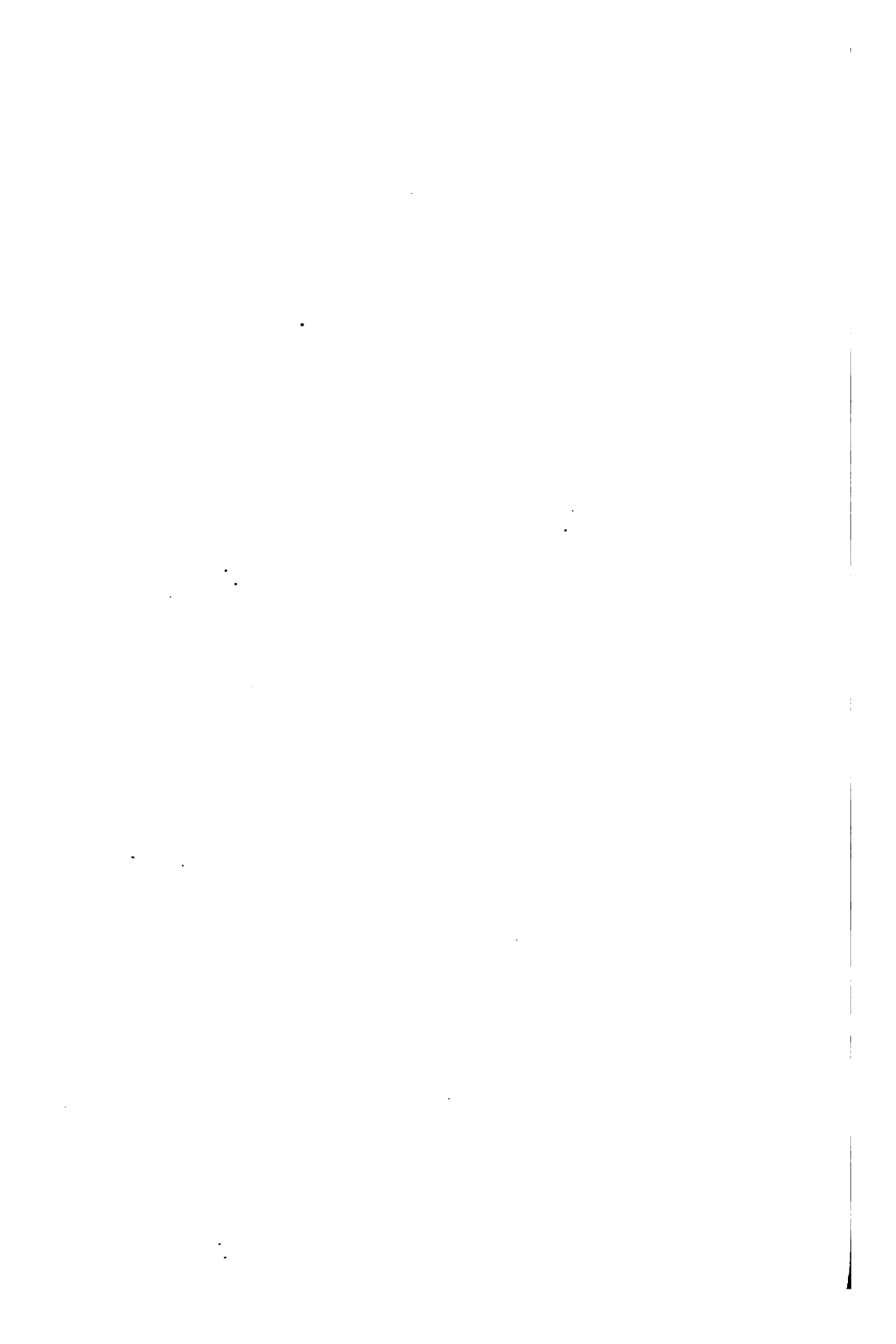
The origin of the Batavi is also decided, for it could not have been Celtic or Germanic, though in after times the population was affected by Germanic influences.











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